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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Director-General of Disposals has been asked not to dispose of the Dairy Farm while the negotiations are going on with the Provincial Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, that has been done."

Homeless people of the Madras City.

* 193 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that a very large number of the poor people of Madras City are without homes and are huddled on pavements and streets;

(b) whether the Government have made any estimate, even approximately, of the number of such people;

(c) if so, the number; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Government to find dwelling places for them?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) & (c) The Government have not made any estimate of the houseless poor in the City. According to the census taken by the Ladden Committee appointed by the Corporation of Madras the number of houseless poor in the City was 10,748 in 1933. At the present time it may be about a lakh.

" (d) The Corporation of Madras are running three beggar homes with a total accommodation for 650 persons. The Government have not so far taken steps to find dwelling places for the poor. The Provincial Housing Committee appointed by the Government are considering this question also and such action as is considered necessary will be taken on receipt of their recommendations."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know why the Municipal Corporation is allowed to waste money on celebrating birthday and presentation of addresses and other similar things, while one lakh of people are going about without homes? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I believe this has no bearing on this question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Why is it that money is allowed to be wasted by the Corporation while it could be used for building homes for the poor? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" If you would have sambhar it does not mean you should not have buttermilk."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will Government take steps to see that the poor are not only housed but that a direction is given to Madras Corporation to provide suitable homes for the poor? "

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THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I believe primarily the housing of the poor in any part of a particular area or town or village is the responsibility of the local body concerned and also of the beneficent public living in that area. So far as Madras City is concerned, various things have been done, are being done and will be done. Last year I made an inspection of the Rayapuram area and I suggested the building of a dormitory at cheap cost so that the houseless poor may have a temporary abode for sleeping at night. Further the Housing Committee is going into the matter and Government will take action on receipt of their recommendations."

Jay walking in Sembiem area.

* 194 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether any people were arrested and prosecuted for jay walking in the Sembiam area, recently incorporated with the Madras Corporation;

(b) if so, how many prosecutions for the alleged offence have been made since the last four months and what are the sentences given by the Magistrate, in each case and who were accused in each case;

(c) whether there are foot-paths in the area for the pedestrians to walk avoiding the roads;

(d) whether there have been any complaint of rudeness by the Police and vexatious prosecution;

(e) whether the Government will have any scheme under consideration to stop prosecutions for such alleged offences in the said area pending construction of foot-paths; and

(f) in the meanwhile whether the Government propose to refund any fines imposed?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) & (b) Recently 283 jay walkers on the Paper Mills Road, Sembiam, were prosecuted. The fines imposed were Re. 1 in most cases and and Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 in other cases. The offenders belonged to all classes.

" (c) Yes. There are pavements on either side of the road.

" (d) No.

" (e) & (f) Do not arise as pavements already exist. Warnings are given in general and only those pedestrians who persist are charged."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I request the Government to ask the Police to satisfy themselves first that the footpaths are in a fit state for people to walk before they prosecute them? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I would ask the hon. Member to try to experiment it himself."